This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-47 (cancelled)

Claim 48 (previously presented) A method for managing a memory in a workstation when a size of user selected medical image files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, the method comprising the steps of:

opening a plurality of medical image files to display a plurality of medical images;

prioritizing the plurality of medical image files using a prioritization scheme having at least three levels including

a first level comprising a currently viewed medical image;

a second level comprising medical images in a viewing stack; and

a third level comprising medical images related to medical images with a higher priority; wherein

the medical images from the first level are designated with a higher priority than the medical images of the second level and the medical images of the second level are designated with a higher priority than the medical images of the third level; and

unloading from the memory of the workstation a medical image file having a lower priority than at least one of the open medical image files stored in memory, wherein the unloaded medical image file includes at least a portion of at least one of the open medical images.

Claim 49 (previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the third level only comprises open medical images related to open medical images from the first level.

Claim 50 (previously presented) The method of claim 48, further comprising the step of saving the visual display settings of the unloaded medical image file such that if the unloaded medical image file is not closed and a user decides to redisplay the unloaded image file, the unloaded medical image file appears virtually open to the user and as if the unloaded medical image file had not been unloaded.

Claim 51 (previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the unloaded open medical image file is transferred to a storage device connected to the workstation by a network.

Claim 52 (previously presented) A system for managing memory in a workstation when a size of user selected medical image files exceeds the memory capacity in the workstation, the system comprising:

a processor configured to prioritize the user selected medical image file using a prioritization scheme having at least three levels including

a first level comprising a currently viewed medical image;

a second level comprising medical images in a viewing stack; and

a third level comprising medical images related to medical images with a higher priority; wherein

the medical images from the first level are designated with a higher priority than the medical images of the second level and the medical images of the second level are designated with a higher priority than the medical images of the third level; and

the memory configured to unload a medical image file having a lower priority than at least one of the user selected medical image files stored in memory, wherein the unloaded medical image file includes at least a portion of at least one of the user selected medical images and wherein the processor is coupled to the memory.

Claim 53 (previously presented) The system of claim 52, wherein the third level only comprises files related to files from the first level.